



M E D I A R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE
BUREAU OF TENNCARE

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GRASSER, SHULMAN JOIN TENNCARE

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – TennCare Director Manny Martins today announced that Eugene Grasser, a former federal healthcare administrator, and Jim Shulman, a Nashville businessman, are joining the healthcare program in key management positions.

Eugene Grasser will serve as TennCare's director of operations, handling day-to-day management of the program. Grasser previously served as associate regional administrator for the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). In that role, which he held from 1993 to 2002, he oversaw eight state Medicaid programs in the southeastern U.S. and was based in Atlanta.

Grasser, 60, retired from the federal government last year after 25 years of service. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and an MBA from Tulane University, New Orleans.

Jim Shulman will serve as TennCare's assistant commissioner for member services, overseeing relations with TennCare's 1.3 million enrollees. Shulman, a Nashville businessman who co-owns ice cream franchises in Middle Tennessee, served as chief of staff to Tennessee House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh from 1995 to 2000. Before that, he was general counsel for the Department of Finance and Administration.

Shulman, 42, also is a part-time elected official serving on Nashville's Metropolitan Council. He holds a bachelor's degree in business and political science and law degree from Vanderbilt University, Nashville.

Martins said both Grasser and Shulman will fill vital roles at TennCare. "Gene and Jim are highly qualified, business-minded individuals," Martins said. "They are committed to public service and getting things done right. We're glad they're joining TennCare."

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